Shortage of Newsprint in the Country

*57. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of newsprint in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the newspapers have been forced to reduce their circulation and some of them are on the verge of closure; and

(c) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) There is shortage of newsprint but no cut has been imposed in the release of newsprint so far and no newspaper has reported to the Registrar of Newspapers for India any reduction in its circulation or closure for want of newsprint.

Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to States

*58. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has decided to transfer a majority of the existing centrally sponsored schemes to States and to discontinue several similar schemes;

(b) if so, what are the details;

(c) whether the decision of the Planning Commission has been implemented; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) to (d) It has been decided that the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be reviewed and the schemes of national importance should be retained by the Centre and the other schemes should be transferred to the States.

The review is underway in consultation with the Central Ministries and State Governments with a view to list them out into two groups, *viz.*, (i) those related to national goals and having a national or inter-State character, which are important to be funded and monitored from the Centre; and (ii) other schemes which can be handled at the State/local level.

Enlarging the scope of Press Council

*59. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 581 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st January, 1991 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to enlarge the scope of the Press Council and make it a media council and bring under its purview the video cassettes;

(b) what would be the power given to the said council; and

(c) whether there would be any means available to stop the circulation of video-cassettes considered objectionable by the council before their circulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

पंजाब में हिंसक घटनाएं

*60. सरदार अवतार सिंह करोड़ा : श्री राम जेठमलानी : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अक्तूबर 1990 से पंजाब में हिंसक घटनाओं में वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन महीनों के दौरान इस प्रकार की कुल कितनी घटनाएं हुई